



STAY IN TOUCH

WITH EMILY DUNN & LOUISE SCHWARTZKOFF
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Art do after saying 'I do'

While she may not yet be a household name, the painter **Lynda Howitt** is no struggling artist. In 2006 she won Australia's richest art prize when her painting of a pair of lips bagged the former Manly resident \$150,000 in the The Signature of Sydney poster art contest. Howitt, 38, has since turned her brush to impressionist paintings of the sea, and a new exhibition of her work, titled *Affinity*, opens at the Charles Hewitt Gallery in Darlinghurst tonight. For Howitt the occasion will be a double celebration following her marriage to the businessman **Alan Shortall** in Mosman last night. Shortall is chief executive of Unilife Medical Solutions, a global medical company that created headlines last year when—despite losses of more than



Thorny result ... Rachel Ward and Richard Chamberlain.

\$57 million—it awarded him both a hefty pay rise, with a base salary of \$420,000 and a generous share

package. In June the couple moved to New York, where, following a sell-out exhibition, Howitt has received expressions of interest from galleries in Washington. "My work seems to be popular for homes and offices," she told SiT yesterday. "I guess a lot of the political types want to see oceans and skies in their house; there is something about paintings of nature that is very calming." Since moving to New York, Howitt said, she had seen very little of the ocean, and relied on photographs and memories of favourite beaches such as Shelly Beach, Manly. The exhibition is open until January 12.



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Page 2 of 2



Thousands of miles from Manly ... New York is now home, and Lynda Howitt relies on her memories of Shelly Beach. Photo: Marco Del Grande